

GRAMMAR OF THE TULU LANGUAGE

I. PART: PHONOLOGY.

1. Chapter: Of the Alphabet.

1. The Tulu language has no alphabet of its own. Those who formerly wrote in Tulu used to employ Malayalam characters; but more recently the Canarese alphabet has been adopted both in writing and printing; so the latter may now be considered as the modern Tulu alphabet.

2. In this alphabet there are 15 Vowels, two Medials and 34 Consonants.

A. Of Vowels.

3. Vowels are either short or long, or diphthongal or indefinite.

Short: ಅ a, ಇ i, ಉ u, ಋ ṛ, ಎ e, ಒ o.

Long: ಆ ā, ಈ ī, ಊ ū, ಋ ṛī, ಏ ē, ಓ ō.

Diphthongal: ಏ ai(ai), ಓ ou.

Indefinite: ' (as in ತ'), sounded nearly as the French e in je. Dr. Lepsius in his Standard Alphabet represents it by ꞥ.

B. Of Medials.

4. There are two Medials, viz: o, which is sounded m, n, or ñ according to position, and 3 ah.

C. Of Consonants.

5. There are 25 classified and 9 unclassified Consonants, viz:—

Classified Consonants.

	Unaspirated.	Aspirated.	Unaspirated.	Aspirated.	Nasal.
Guttural Class	ಕ ka	ಖ kha	ಗ ga	ಘ gha	ಙ ṅa
Palatal	ಚ ca	ಛ cha	ಜ ja	ಝ jha	ಞ ṅa
Cerebral	ಟ ṭa	ಠ ṭha	ಡ ḍa	ಢ ḍha	ಣ ṇa
Dental	ತ ta	ಥ tha	ದ da	ಧ dha	ನ na
Labial	ಪ pa	ಫ pha	ಬ ba	ಭ bha	ಮ ma

Unclassified Consonants.

ಯ ya, ರ ra, ಲ la, ವ va, ಶ śa, ಷ ṣa ನ sa, ಹ ha, ಳ la.

2. Chapter: Of Pronunciation.

TABULAR VIEW OF THE ALPHABET.

6. A. Vowels.

Initial forms.	Medial and final forms.	Corresponding English Characters.	Power of the Vowels.	Examples of Vowels and Consonants united
ಅ	ಽ	a	like a in about	ಕ and ಅ become ಕ ka
ಆ	ಌ	ā	" a " far	ಕ " ಆ " ಕಾ kā
ಇ	ಋ	i	" i " him	ಗ " ಇ " ಗಿ gi
ಈ	ಋ	ī	" ee " deep	ದ " ಈ " ದೀ dī
ಉ	ಠ	u	" oo " wool	ನು " ಉ " ನು nu
ಊ	ಊ	ū	" oo " ool	ನು " ಊ " ಪು pū
ಋ	ಋ	ri		ಬು " ಋ " ಬ್ರು bṛi
ಠ	ಠ	rī		ಮು " ಠ " ಮ್ಠ mṛī
ಎ	ಱ	e	" e " met	ಯ " ಎ " ಯೆ ye
ಐ	ಱ	ē	" a " mata	ರ " ಐ " ರೇ ré
ಓ	ಱ	oi	" y " my	ಲ " ಓ " ಲೈ lei
ಒ	ಱ	o	" o " not	ತ " ಒ " ತೋ sō
ಒ	ಱ	ō	" o " note	ಸ " ಒ " ಸೋ sō
ಔ	ಱ	ou	" ow " owl	ಹ " ಔ " ಹೌ hou

The vowels are pronounced according to the directions given in the preceding tabular view of the alphabet, except ಎ e, ಐ ē, ಒ o, ಓ ō, which when initials are pronounced ye, yē, wo, wō; ಅs, ಎಣ್ಣೆ yeṅṅa; ಎತ್ yeṣṣa, ಒಂಜಿ wonji, ಓಡೆ wōḍa. In ಋ ri, ಠ rī, the i and ī have the short and long sound of the French eu in bourre.

— 3 —
7. B. Consonants.

Consonants with the inherent vowel ಉ a.	Corresponding English Characters.	Sound of the Consonants with the inherent vowel ಉ a.	Form and position when combined with other consonants	EXAMPLES.
ಕ	ka	like ka in kalendar	ಕ	ಮುಕ್ಕು musku
ಖ	kha	*	ಖ	ಪುಕ್ಕು paskha
ಗ	ga	" ga " gander	ಗ	ಸದ್ಗುಣ sadguna
ಘ	gha	*	ಘ	ಮೆಲಗಟ್ಟು melghatta
ಢ	ṅa	*	ಢ	ಢಾಢೆ ṅaṅe
ಠ	ṭa	" ṭa " chapter	ಠ	ನಿಷಯ niścaya
ಠ	ṭha	*	ಠ	ಇಠೆ iṭṭhe
ಜ	ja	" ja " jam	ಜ	ಸಜ್ಜೆ sajjī
ಞ	jha	*	ಞ	
ಢ	ṅa	" ṅa " bunyan	ಢ	ಞಾṅa jṅāna
ಠ	ṭa	" ṭa " martaban	ಠ	ಕಾಠೆ kaṭṭa
ಠ	ṭha	*	ಠ	ಸಾಠೆ śaṭṭhi
ಠ	ṭa	" ṭa " cardamom	ಠ	ಬಾಠೆ baṭṭi
ಠ	ṭha	*	ಠ	ಧಿಠೆ dṛiṭṭha
ಠ	ṭa	" ta " tank	ಠ	ಪಾಠೆ paṭṭa
ಠ	ṭha	*	ಠ	ಪಾಠೆ paṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" tha " that	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭha	*	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" na " natural	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" pa " parrot	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭha	*	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" ba " barrow	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭha	*	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" ma " matter	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" ya " yam	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" ra " rag	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" la " laok	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" va " van	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" sha " sham	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" sha " marshal	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" sa " sat	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa	" ha " ham	ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa
ಠ	ṭa		ಠ	ಠಾಠೆ ṭhāṭṭa

* The preceding sound aspirated.